

Home Learning Policy

Introduction

In order that our pupils can attain the highest standards, spiritual, moral, social, cultural and academic, we recognise the crucial importance of an active educational partnership between home and school.

Homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

The school policy for home learning was developed and agreed by a working party in spring 17 consisting of parents, staff, pupils and governors. At Chorleywood Primary School we appreciate that children need to enjoy their childhood and so homework should not deprive them of the time and space to have family time, to play, talk, imagine, create and learn in their home situation. Children also need time to join clubs and organisations and pursue extra-curricular activities. In our 2016 Parent Survey our parents answered the question below regarding homework:

% of total responses # of responses	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
My child receives appropriate homework for this age	53% 110	38% 80	6% 13	0% 0	2% 5

All parents were invited to join the working party to develop this policy.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in maths and English.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence, ability to prioritise their timetable of homework and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- The time allocated to home learning is progressive to prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school; at St Clement Danes pupils receive approximately 1 hour a night.

The purpose of homework

As our pupils get older, so the purposes of homework will change. At Key Stage One the key purpose is to involve parents actively in their child's learning, with activities such as games, spellings, number facts, times tables and reading. As pupils get older, the main purpose increasingly becomes as providing opportunities for them to develop the skill of independent learning. Hence, by the time pupils reach Year 6, the homework programme should have a regular weekly

schedule and cover a wide range of tasks and curriculum content - ensuring a smooth transition to secondary school.

When teachers set homework they will ensure that:

- It is always clearly related to current areas of study within the classroom.*
- The task is made clear to children and matched to their abilities, especially for those pupils with special educational needs.*
- In upper KS2 it is supported by a homework diary in which children and parents can note success and record any problems encountered.*
- Time scales for completion and submission are explicit.*
- Work is marked as promptly as possible, teachers will use this marking to inform their planning and talk to individuals as necessary.*
- Problems or difficulties encountered by children are dealt with swiftly.*
- Regular completion of homework of a high standard is recognised and celebrated.*
- The impact of homework upon the standards of children's attainment is monitored and included in the report to parents.*
- All children will be expected to complete tasks. They will be given an opportunity to succeed in this through using a homework session in school leisure time if they continually fail to complete it.*

Key homework related initiatives at Chorleywood Primary School

- Reading challenge - all pupils are encouraged to complete the number of books and tasks to obtain the bronze, silver, gold, platinum and reading star awards. The School Council have decided that pupils will need to complete one activity out of the five books they read at each certificate stage. They only have to choose one book out of five books from the recommended list.
- Reading scheme - children will be supported to work their way through the scheme. Initially, for the younger children this is about decoding the words. Children will then discuss their books with adults thinking about inference and induction.
- Spelling rules - children will undertake activities related to the rules they are currently learning.
- Cracking times tables - children will work their way through the levels to increase the speed and accuracy with which they can recall multiplication facts.
- Sports challenge - The Sports Committee will be introducing a sports challenge for the summer 17 term. At Chorleywood Primary School we promote a healthy lifestyle. We understand the importance of children participating in physical activity and the health benefits of increasing their fitness. This challenge rewards children for their participation in physical activity.
- My maths (Y2-6) - this online maths will be used to reinforce their learning in class.

We use the following table as a guide for the time allocated to homework for each year group:

Reception : 60 minutes per week by the end of the year

Years 1 and 2: 1.30 hours per week

Years 3 and 4: 2.5 hours per week

Years 5 and 6: 3 hours per week

While homework activities will increase as children move through the school, by Year 6 children will still not be expected to spend more than half an hour on homework on any one evening. In preparation for the KS2 SATs pupils may receive some additional homework. Reading may be included in the above times.

NB: Homework should never be too onerous nor should it create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the class teacher. If your child is spending significantly longer than these time allocations please discuss ways to overcome this with their class teacher.

Regular Reading

Regular opportunities to read are vital throughout the Primary years. Homework for KS1 children should largely consist of regular reading with parents and carers; looking at books together. Reading practice and listening to others read continues to be essential throughout primary school.

All primary school children should either read to their parents or carers or be read to. If they are fluent readers, they should read on their own for at least ten to twenty minutes a day. This may be done in the context of homework, for example a Year 1 pupil may read a book from school to his/her parent or a Year 6 pupil may read a reference book independently to research for a history topic. On other occasions, the reading will not form part of the homework, for example a parent or carer may read a bedtime story or children may read street signs. Audio books are a

good idea for busy families in the car or listening together in the evening.

The Role of Parents

Parents need to discuss with their children the following questions:

- When is it a good time to do any homework?
- Where is the best place for homework to be done?
- What helps concentration?
- How long should my homework take me?
- Should I ask for help with my homework, even when it is finishing work started in class?
- Who should I ask for help and how much help should I expect?

It is vital that parents display a positive attitude to homework and value its importance. It is also important for parents to recognise that it is the children's responsibility to complete the work.

Monitoring and Marking Homework

To fully promote an inclusive ethos, staff will monitor the completion of homework by using a variety of methods to check all pupils complete the tasks set within the given time schedule. Class teachers will be responsible for the setting of homework for their own class. The collecting and marking of homework activities will be overseen by both the class teacher and the Teaching Assistant. Where appropriate, some homework activities will be self or peer marked as this enables the children to receive immediate feedback.

Should there be a reason why homework is not completed within the given timescale, parents/carers should communicate with the class teacher by letter. If children are consistently not completing their homework children will be expected to

complete the missed homework tasks during break times, and in some circumstances, parents will be contacted in order to address the situation.

The impact of the policy will be monitored through the annual parent survey and through pupil voice.

APPENDIX 2

Parent/Carer and Child Activities

Involve your child in domestic activities:-

- cooking has lots of language, maths and science potential
- laying the table has maths potential - patterns, numbers, sets, "next to", "left", "right", comparisons of sizes of plates etc.
- going shopping - handling and counting money, sorting items in the trolley, dealing with change, discounts, special offers, let your child write the shopping list, read it to you in the shop and tick items off.
- Washing - how do the clothes get clean and dry? Sort out the socks - matching pairs, find the biggest, smallest etc.
- Playing with water - filling containers, guessing how many of one container fills another.
- Visit the library on a regular basis and let your child join. Reading together at bedtime, discussing pictures, taking turns to read. Let your child see you reading for pleasure and information.
- Teach your child nursery rhymes, poems and songs.
- Provide paper, pencils/crayons to draw or write with. Any early "scribbles" are the beginning of writing and should be encouraged. Encourage your child to keep a diary for a short while, write letters, cards, etc. Maybe thank you letters after Christmas and birthday presents.
- Help your child make a scrap book of places visited.
- After you have watched a T.V. programme, turn the TV off and talk about it. Also encourage your child to summarise what they have watched.

- Join in their imaginative games, role play, provide a dressing up box and an old blanket or sheet.
- Play with your child using construction toys such as Lego, Duplo and train sets.
- Do jigsaw puzzles - have you tried a 3D one?
- Visit the park, play with bats, balls, skipping ropes and hoops.
- Play with board games e.g. draughts, snakes and ladders, Monopoly, Scrabble, chess, also dominoes and cards.
- Telling the time and timing activities.
- When travelling - encourage your child to be involved in reading the timetables and discussing time until departure, length of travel etc.
- There are also a wide variety of educational Apps available for children.
- Look out for events at theatres and offers.

Most Importantly - HAVE FUN!